



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Energize Connecticut Announces Statewide Student Contest

*Eleventh annual eesmart<sup>SM</sup> Student Contest gives Connecticut students the opportunity to creatively promote energy efficient and renewable energy technologies*

NEW BRITAIN, Conn. (February 11, 2015) – Energize Connecticut, in partnership with Eversource Energy and the United Illuminating Company, is now accepting entries for its eleventh annual *eesmart<sup>SM</sup>* Student Contest for students in grades K-12. The contest is open to all students in Connecticut and the deadline for entries is April 24, 2015.

The *eesmart<sup>SM</sup>* Student Contest invites students to create projects about energy efficiency, renewable energy, and sustainability. Finalists for each grade level will be honored at a special awards ceremony on June 5 at the State Capitol in Hartford.

“The *eesmart<sup>SM</sup>* program is intended help Connecticut students understand the science, math and technology related to clean energy and empower them to make energy-efficient choices, now and in the future,” said Bill Dornbos, ENE (Environment Northeast) and Connecticut Energy Efficiency Board Chairperson. “The annual contest is a great opportunity for students to creatively demonstrate their understanding of clean energy and develop projects that can positively impact Connecticut’s environment.”

Students in grades K-8 are assigned grade-specific topics and asked to submit their entries in the form of a poster (Grades K-2), narrative (Grade 3), news article (Grade 4), book review (Grade 5), essay (Grade 6), speech (Grade 7), or public service announcement (Grade 8).

Students in Grades 9-12 compete in the “Power of Change” award category, which asks students to propose a community-based project to address an energy-related issue. Students may work in groups in this category, and winners’ schools will receive funding to make their proposed project a reality. The *eesmart<sup>SM</sup>* program provides grants of \$1,000 for first place, \$1,000 for second place and \$500 for third place.

For all grade levels, first prize winners receive a \$400 Amazon Gift Card, second prize winners receive a \$250 Amazon Gift Card, and third prize winners receive a \$50 Amazon Gift Card.

For more information about the contest, please visit [www.eesmart.com/contest](http://www.eesmart.com/contest).

### ***About Energize Connecticut***

Energize Connecticut helps you save money and use clean energy. It is an initiative of the Energy Efficiency Fund, the Connecticut Green Bank, the State, and your local electric and gas utilities, with funding from a charge on customer energy bills. Information on energy-saving programs can be found at [EnergizeCT.com](http://EnergizeCT.com) or by calling 1.877.WISE.USE.

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